sales for 75.87 lakh tonnes. For the year 1997-98 the MOU target for exports is 5 lakh tonnes while the sale for indigenous consumption would depend upon overall availability/demand scenario in the country.

Cancellation of Trains

2571. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the trains cancelled between Sarai Rohilla Delhi and Ajmer on metre gauge line and between Delhi Junction and Ajmer on Broad-gauge line from December, 1996 till date;

(b) whether any public notice has been issued through print media about the cancellation of the above trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the new trains alongwith their arrival and departure timings introduced during the said period between Delhi Junction and Ajmer (BG) and between Sarai Rohilla, Delhi and Ajmer (MG)?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The following Metre Gauge trains were cancelled after Dec. '96 due to gauge conversion work :

(1) 9943/9944 Ahmedabad-Delhi Express on Ajmer-Delhi section.

(2) 9905/9906 Delhi-Ahmedabad Fast Passenger.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Public notice has been issued through media like Newspapers.

(d) After Dec.'96 the following Broad Gauge trains have been introduced, serving the traffic between Delhi & Ajmer :

9105 Mail	2916 Exp.			9106 Mail	2916 Exp.
1925	0210 ↓	d. Ajmer	a. ↑	0715	2310
0425	1015	a. Delhi	d.	2210	1505

An exclusive service on Metre Gauge between Ajmer and Delhi Sarai Rohilla has been provided after cancellation of Jodhpur Mail on Jodhpur-Ajmer section. It has been decided to introduce a weekly Swarna Jayanti Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Ahmedabad *via* Ajmer during Aug.'97 to the following timings :

2428 Rajdhani Exp.			2427 Rajdhani Exp.
2215	d.	Ajmer	a. 0255
0505 ↓	a.	New Delhi ↑	d. 1945

Indo-US Scientific Cooperation

2572. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the press report capitioned "Scientists see a threat in Wisner remark" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated May 22, 1997;

(b) if so, whether cooperation between Indian and American scientists could be jeopardised unless India tightened its intellectual property rights (IPR) regime; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are some differences on the intellectual property rights which have had an impact on efforts to work out a new science and technology agreement between India and the USA. Cooperation in science and technology between the two countries has been an ongoing process through last four decades, primarily at the level of scientific agencies, and also under the Indo-US sub-Commission on Science & Technology. This cooperation continues. Indian position on intellectual property rights, based on the social and economic requirements of the country, is known to the US side.

Private Sector in Transmission and Distribution

2573. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private sector participation in power transmission and distribution have any impact to meet power shortages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The participation of private sector in transmission and distribution of power will help in improving the power supply position as additional investment in transmission and distribution will enable transfer of power over long distance from pithead power stations/mega projects to load centres in several States and also result in reduction in Transmission losses.